

## SLBC Sermon - December 2000

*Vayadhammā saṅkhārā. Appamādena sampādeṭṭhā.*

**All conditioned things are liable to perish. Therefore diligently accomplish your mission.**

Greetings to our listeners. This is December and I come to you today to deliver the last Poya Day sermon of the year. On the dawn of the year 2000, many people all over the world decided to make many resolutions which they could carry over to the new millennium. That first year is now nearly ending and soon it will be 2001. I have no doubt that Sri Lankan Buddhists too did likewise. We shall take note of this during the course of our sermon.

As for Buddhism in Sri Lanka today, one has never before witnessed a period like this when there is so much utter chaotic confusion as to what real Buddhist teachings are. All around us, religions are being called upon to play diverse roles pertaining to endless areas of human need, even like success in the sale of alcohol in newly opened wine shops.

Since it is becoming the fashion everywhere, it seems difficult even to the Buddhists to keep away from praying for success in terms of material benefits in everyday life. But it must not be forgotten that Buddhists are required to count on their down-to-earth human skills, whether it is wisdom, energy or enterprise.

We know that in the world today, the vast astonishing strides in the fields of science and technology never come to man via grace or divine favour. Buddhists certainly cannot and do not view it as an answer to any prayer. It is the result of developing with wisdom and energy latent human capacities to their maximum.

In the light of these observations, as the year 2000 comes to an end, we would do well to be reminded as to what the meaningful stand in life of Buddhists should be, both with regard to success in life they like to achieve here and now as well as how successfully they can groom their lives spiritually in terms of the

religion they profess. Buddhists just cannot ape and imitate what others do. Spiritual considerations build up men, women and children, all equally well, to take up here and now their rightful place as friendly and loving people in the world of humans.

In the name of religion, no group can overrun another for the propagation of their own faith. Humanity, with any sense of justice in their heads, cannot and must not condone this. People with such thinking must remain secluded and confined to their own restricted territories. They must not be allowed to cross any borders.

Now as the year 2000 is about to wind up, there are two areas of Buddhism on which I like to address our Sri Lankans. Has this first year of the 3rd millennium a satisfactory record of successful performance as far as Sri Lankan Buddhists are concerned. Have we taken stock of what we have been doing as Buddhists over the years, and noted the very bad mistakes we have been repeatedly doing and taken any steps to correct them?

Some of us do not even wish to face these questions. Far from making corrections to mistakes